

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant amendment claims 11, 13-14 and 16 will remain pending in the above identified application and stand allowed.

The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed, as they simply cancel prior claims 17-18.

***Claim Rejections 35 USC § 112***

Claims 17-18 have been rejected under the provisions of 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Withdraw of this rejection is required based on the cancellation of claims 17-18 herein.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)***

Claims 17-18 have been rejected under the provisions of 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. (US 5,723,246) in view of Matsunaga et al. (US 5,976,752). Withdraw of this rejection is required based on the cancellation of claims 17-18 herein.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating the allowability of instantly pending claims 11, 13-14 and 16 at page 4, last paragraph, of the outstanding office action.

Conclusion

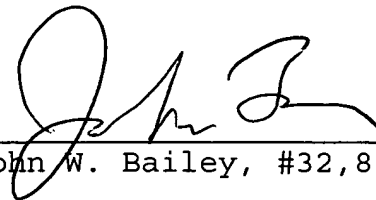
Based on the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a notice of allowance in the matter of the instant application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bailey, #32,881

JWB/jwb  
1422-0416PUS2

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000